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[facing p. 1 (2)]

## GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

From the drought-and flood-harassed north-western Honan Province to verdant, tropical Hainan Island, this region embraces a wide geographical variety. The depth of 32 degrees of latitude ( $40^{\circ}$  -  $36^{\circ}$  N.) exceeds that of the United States by about 10 degrees; its area of 1,166,000 square kilometers (451,000 sq. mi.), ranking fourth in size among all the regions in China, is three times the territory of Japan, and equals the combined areas of England, France, Italy, Holland, Denmark, and Luxembourg. 131

This region consists of Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi provinces.

### I. TOPOGRAPHY

#### A. Mountains

Topographically, this region, from north to south, includes southern fringes of the North China plain, the major alluvial plains of the Yangtze and the Han rivers, studded with a few towering mountains, the alluvial plains of the Tungting and Poyang lakes, the South Yangtze hills, and the hills of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, and a narrow strip of flat land along the Gulf of Tonkin and the South China Sea. 133

The region presents a general west-to-east decline with the main mountain ranges of 3,000 feet or over on the western side of the region. The Fu-nia Mountain of the Pei-ling system overlooks the region from the northwest; the Wu-tang, Wu-shan, and Hsüeh-feng Mountains form the western boundary, leading to the Yunnan-Kweichow tableland at the southwestern corner. On the east side, a few moun-

Its highest mountain (the Wu-chih-shan, 1,350 <sup>133</sup> m. or 4,320 ft.) stands in the central south, while the northern one-third is rather flat. The main rivers on the island are the Nan-tu, which flows northward and is navigable for boats up to 20 tons on its lower reaches and the Wanch'uan, which flows eastward.

Geological evidence indicates that at one time Hainan Island, fifteen miles off the Kwangtung coast, was connected with the Lei-chou Peninsula. Today, the strait is extremely shallow, <sup>504</sup> and the port of Hai-k'ou (Hoi-chow) on Hainan, facing the Lei-chou Peninsula, is of little value because of its shallowness and the rough water which blocks its entrance. Ships must anchor a mile offshore. Whenever the wind is high, passengers debarking are lowered into launches by a crane-operated basket. The southern coast of the island offers better harbor prospects with its port of Yu-lin.<sup>10</sup>

The extent of China's claim to jurisdiction <sup>131</sup> over the South China Sea has been a matter of <sup>133</sup> long-standing dispute. The official Peking description includes within its territorial waters the sea almost to the shores of the Philippines and Borneo, reaching as far south as 4° North Latitude.<sup>11</sup> Wider in the north and tapering toward the south, this sea claimed by China covers roughly 650,000 square miles, or an area about eight times the size of Kwangtung Province. Within this body of water are located hundreds of small islets and shoals, of

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10. Ch'en Chih, Hai-nan Hsin-chih [ The New Geography of Hainan ], Shanghai, Commercial Press, 1949.

11. Jen-min Jih-pao [ People's Daily ], Peking, August 16, 1951.

which 160 bear definite names.<sup>12</sup>

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These islands fall into four groups: (a) the Tung-sha group, also known as Pratus. The main island, Tung-sha (about 2.7 sq. mi. in size), lies only 170 nautical miles southeast of Hong Kong and is a center for commercial fishing; (b) the Hsi-sha group, also known as Paracel, about 144 miles from the island of Hainan. The largest island in this group is Yung-hsing (0.7 sq. mi.); (c) the chung-sha group to the east of the Hsi-sha, which is hardly more than a cluster of submerged shoals; (d) the Nan-sha group, the most extensive of the four, some of its far-flung rocks only 434 miles from the Chung-sha. Of this last group, the largest is T'ai-p'ing Island (0.044 sq. mi.), but prime importance should be attached to Nan-wei Island, which could be developed as a strategic harbor. Rich phosphorous resources and marine products are common features of these islands.<sup>13</sup>

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The ambiguous status of these islands is indicated by the fact that for centuries the Chung-sha (Central Sand) group was known to the Chinese as Nan-sha (Southern Sand), while the present Nan-sha had borne the designation of T'uan-sha (Mass of Sand). Apparently the Chinese considered the Chung-sha group the southernmost territory and were not very much concerned with jurisdiction over T'uan-sha. The 1951 Japanese Peace Treaty, to which Communist China was not a party, stipulates that Japan forfeits her claim over these islands, but fails to specify under which country their administra-

12. Hsü Chün-ming, op. cit., pp. 9-10.

13. Ibid., pp. 9-12.

## CENTRAL-SOUTH CHINA

- International Boundary  
 — Regional Boundary  
 — Provincial Boundary  
 — Highway  
 — Old Railway  
 — New Constructed Railroad  
 — Proposed Railroad  
 — Completed Railways

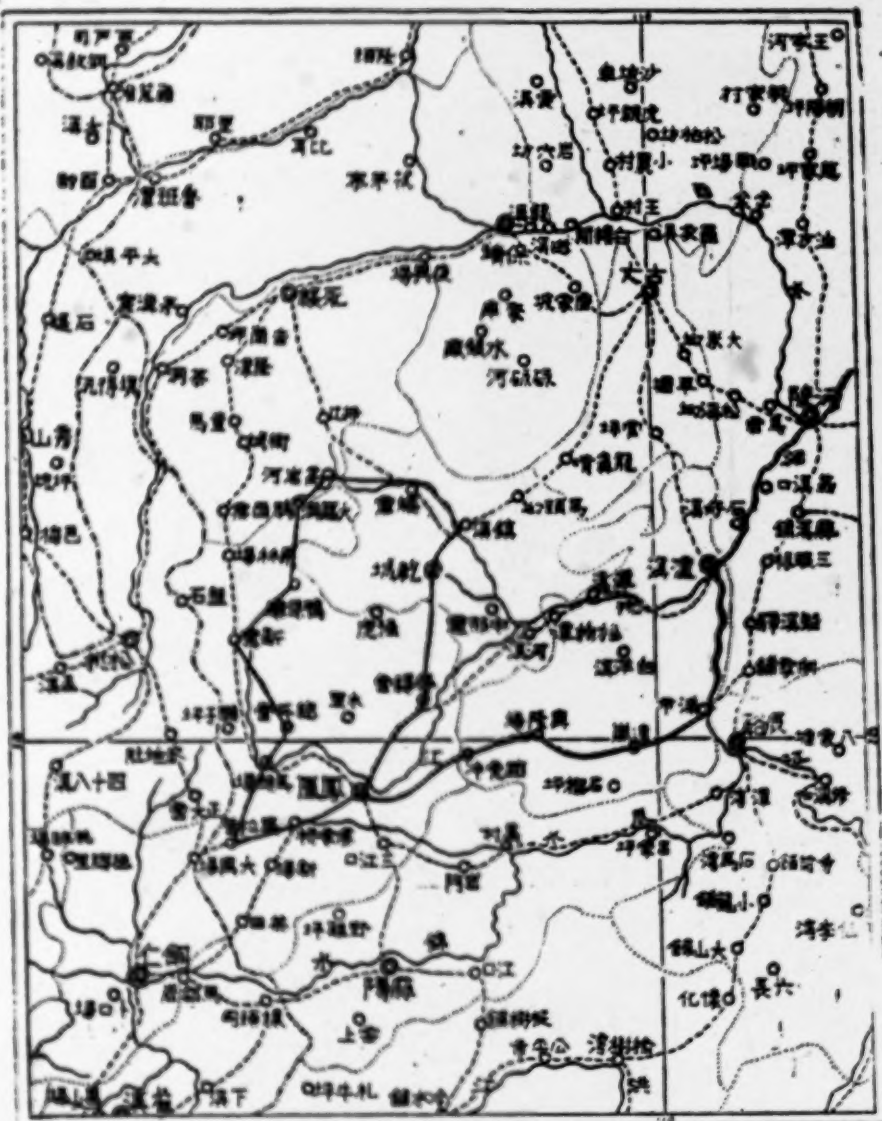


[facing p. 154]

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C  
102  
131  
133



**Illus. 2. Sketch Map of the Topography of the Miao Frontier**



— Provincial Boundary ..... Hsien Boundary ---- Highways  
— Lines of the Investigation

Scale 1:500,000

Illus. 3. Map of the Lines of the Investigation in the Miao Frontier

M  
102  
131  
133  
648  
C  
102  
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●131  
103  
634  
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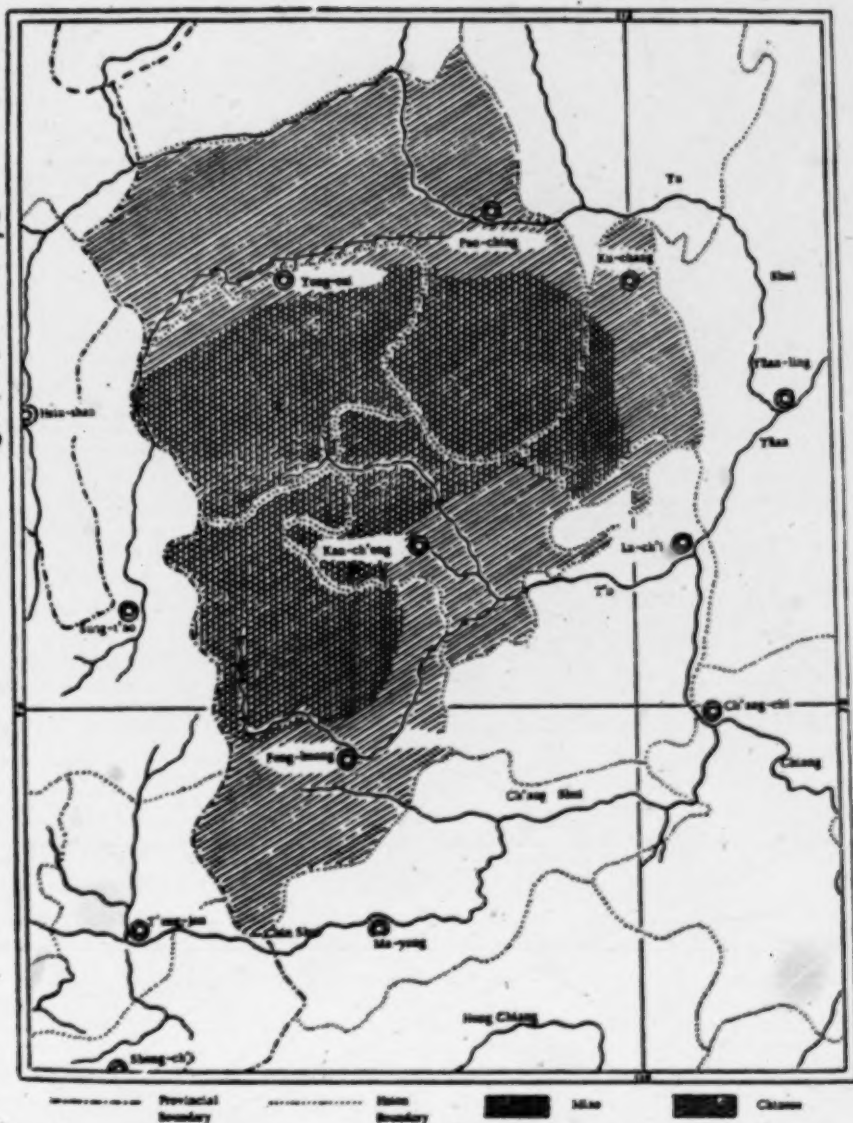


Illustration 5. Map of the Distribution of the Chinese and Miao in the Five States of Feng-shuang, Kan-ch'ang, Yang-wei, Pao-ching, and Ku-chang.